12-27-04

Express Mail No. EF230784758US

293/008 Cont.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

plicants

: Thomas J. Bachinski et al.

Application No. : 09/406,575

Confirmation No.: 1763

Filed

: September 24, 1999

For

: MEDICAL GRAFTING CONNECTORS AND

FASTENERS

Group Art Unit : 3738

Examiner

: Paul B. Prebilic

New York, New York 10020

December 22, 2004

Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In response to the final Office Action dated October 8, 2004, applicants respectfully request reconsideration in light of the following:

Remarks begin on page 2 of this paper.

Appendices A and B are attached hereto.

Not Entered PBP 1-05